

City Limits

News from the Government Offices of Dahlonega, Georgia

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This newsletter is a collaborative project of the city of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County, designed to help citizens stay informed. Editor: Lee Ann Roy, Independent Writer



Shopping Local Makes Sense

Now, more than ever, it makes sense to shop at

home. You save gas, boost your local economy and generate sales tax that supports local services. The Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority, in keeping with its work plan, is encouraging people to shop at home with a marketing campaign that includes banners and regular advertising in *The Dahlonega Nugget*. Meanwhile, to help keep the visitors coming, the DDA is also running ads on Georgia Public Broadcasting through the Christmas season. Complementing promotion of downtown Dahlonega as a shopping destination the DDA has continued to support crowd pleasers like the First Friday concert series (final concert Oct. 3), Saturday afternoon Appalachian Jam sessions and the Tuesday and Saturday Farmers Market at Hancock Park.

Streetscape Program

A \$101,000 state Transportation Enhancement grant, along with \$425,000 in federal monies awarded by Congress, will enable the City of Dahlonega to begin implementing key components of a streetscape master plan developed last year. Aimed at protecting downtown Dahlonega's character and charm—and economic strength—the streetscape plan includes guidelines for everything from infrastructure, trees and green space to lighting, benches and trash cans. The DOT funds will cover design and engineering over the next 6-9 months, and the federal dollars will be used for construction. "The city has worked hard to build relationships with Senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss and Congressman Nathan Deal so they understand our unique needs in Dahlonega," says city manager Bill Lewis. "We appreciate our federal delegation's responsiveness."



Don't Wait for Lower Rate

The Lumpkin County Fire/EMS Department announced in August that the Insurance Services Offices (ISO) has upgraded the city's fire safety rating by two points (from a 7 to a 5)—effective Nov. 1. That will mean lower insurance bills for many when the new rate kicks in. However, Fire Chief Ed Eggert says some insurance companies will honor the lower rate before then, based on the notification letter. The best advice for those in the city limits: Touch base with your insurance company now about this change. If they're willing to apply your lower rate early, just give Chief Eggert a call at (706) 864-3030, and he'll get you the documentation you'll need.

And if you're wondering why the ISO has smiled on the city of Dahlonega, it's a combination of factors, including the county fire department's operations, equipment and training, 911 communications and, of course, water. The city has invested a lot of money over the past 5-10 years running new water lines and improving water pressure, says city manager Bill Lewis, noting he's thrilled to see all that effort now benefiting city residents in insurance savings and—most important—a safer community.



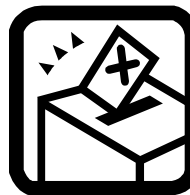
Waterworks: Pipes in the Ground

Construction is underway on Dahlonega's new water plant on Morrison Moore Parkway and the distribution system that will serve it, with good progress being made on both fronts. Pipeline work started first since water plant construction depends on having water at the site. The water transmission mains for raw and finished water should be finished by December. Meanwhile, although you can't see the work from the road, there is activity below the water plant's foundation level. Concrete "walls" that will contain and protect the pipes running underneath the plant have been constructed. The project is slated for completion in January 2010, not a minute too soon, as the city's existing water treatment plant, built in 1976, is fast approaching the 1.2 million-gallons-per-day limits of its permitted capacity.



Hancock Park Looking Good

Standing as a tribute to healthy community debate and compromise, a new pavilion now graces Hancock Park just north of the Public Square. The design of the structure is similar to that of the Madeleine Anthony Park shelter at the intersection of Highway 60 and Morrison Moore Parkway. The lodge-feel wood and rock structure has an inviting appeal and—with public restrooms and a large storage area—a practical functionality. The pavilion includes about 23' X 40' of covered area with an uncovered pad in front. Landscaping and restoration of park features like the dedicated bricks and iron Maibaum Tree sculpture will complete the park project in the coming weeks.



City Election on Super Tuesday

A Special Election to fill the unexpired term of Bill Scott on the Dahlonega City Council will be held in conjunction with the Presidential Election Nov. 4, 2008. Four candidates are vying for the post, which the former councilman vacated to run (successfully) for a seat on the County Board of Commissioners.

City of Dahlonega . . . continued from reverse side

City Earns Awards...Again

Dahlonega continues to make headlines for efforts to preserve its best features. The City has been recertified for the fifth consecutive year as a "National Main Street City" through the achievements of its Better Hometown Program. The city has also been



recertified as a Tree City USA through a program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. What's next? The city is working toward federal designation as a Preserve America Community. Go for it, Dahlonega!

Rethinking City Hall

While a modular building add-on and reconfiguration of space has provided a temporary fix for a city government that has outgrown its home, the need for a larger facility in the next few years remains. Options considered for a new City Hall have included the current Riley Road site, the old Lumpkin County school about two blocks north of the Public Square and,



most recently, historic Hillcrest (used for years as a funeral home) on Grove Street. Realizing some outside expertise is needed to make sure the best decision is made, the City Council has engaged Urban Collage, the company that developed Dahlonega's recently-unveiled Master Plan, to evaluate the sites and make a recommendation. The company will consider strengths and weakness of the sites, as well as factors like traffic, accessibility, convenience, expandability and compatibility with the Master Plan.

\$ Grant Funds Allow Project Start

Expansion of the sewer force main that will help serve recently-expanded Timken Company finally is underway thanks to the approval of two major

The Buzz on SolarBees

They created quite a buzz when they first "landed" on the reservoir last spring, but the city's four SolarBees are now quietly blending into the scenery, preserving water quality and cutting costs. The long distance circulators (LDCs) keep the waters moving to battle the dreaded blue-green algae that can poison a lake's ecosystem and choke out the wildlife. They'll help keep the 137 acre body of water healthy by improving dissolved oxygen and pH levels. The machines run on marine batteries charged by energy efficient solar panels, so there are no pollution-causing emissions. From a financial standpoint, the need for costly algicides, herbicides and phosphorus-binding compounds typically used in reservoirs to control algae bloom will be eliminated or substantially reduced, and there will be no energy costs involved in operation of the machines.



grants: a half-million dollar Employee Incentive Program grant administered through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and a \$280,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The city will pick up 20% of the project cost, less than \$200,000, for the expansion, which will incidentally

Recycling Away from Home

The City of Dahlonega gave the community's new Away from Home recycling program rave reviews after using it for the first time July 4th. Away from



Home is a partnership between the North Georgia Resource

Management Authority, the City of Dahlonega, Lumpkin County and North Georgia College & State University. It's a "stow and go" recycling program for festivals, sporting events and other large group gatherings. A trailer is outfitted with four racks of 25 lightweight frame receptacles and customized see-through bags for collecting drink cans and plastic bottles. On event day, the trailer is hitched up and pulled to the site for set up. The receptacles are off-

loaded and distributed around the event. When the event's over, the receptacles go back on the trailer and the recyclables are ready for pick-up. The city has taken the lead in using the Away from Home set-up for downtown events, but anyone in the community planning a large group event is encouraged use it. North Georgia's Community Leadership Connection (CLC) group coordinates use of the trailer. For details contact Chuck Robertson, NGCSU Psychology Department, at (706) 864-1444 or clc@ngcsu.edu.

The city has a good track record for involvement in recycling and environmentally friendly projects. Another recent example was the two-week local component of the Great American Clean Up project last spring, coordinated by city intern Rebecca Shirley.

benefit other future users served by the line that runs from Timken to the Barlow Road pump station.

How May We Be of Service?



Question? Comment? Problem? Call City Hall at (706) 864-6133. We'll put you in touch with the right person.

City Council

Gary McCullough, Mayor
Michael Clemons
Guy Laboa
Gerald Lord
Sam Norton
Terry Peters

Bill Lewis, City Manager

Please join us at our meetings!

Learn about your government by attending public meetings like these. Find the complete schedule at www.cityofdahlonega.com.

City Council: 1st Monday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

Planning/Zoning Commission: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm—City Hall

Historic Preservation

Commission: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

Dahlonega Downtown Development

Authority: 3rd Thursday of each month at 8:30am--City Hall

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